

# The group of automorphisms of the Lie algebra of derivations of a field of rational functions

V. V. Bavula

## Abstract

We prove that the group of automorphisms of the Lie algebra  $\text{Der}_K(Q_n)$  of derivations of the field of rational functions  $Q_n = K(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  over a field of characteristic zero is canonically isomorphic to the group of automorphisms of the  $K$ -algebra  $Q_n$ .

*Key Words:* Group of automorphisms, monomorphism, Lie algebra, automorphism, locally nilpotent derivation, the field of rational functions in  $n$  variables.

*Mathematics subject classification 2010:* 17B40, 17B20, 17B66, 17B65, 17B30.

## 1 Introduction

In this paper, module means a left module,  $K$  is a field of characteristic zero and  $K^*$  is its group of units, and the following notation is fixed:

- $P_n := K[x_1, \dots, x_n] = \bigoplus_{\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^n} Kx^\alpha$  is a polynomial algebra over  $K$  where  $x^\alpha := x_1^{\alpha_1} \cdots x_n^{\alpha_n}$  and  $Q_n := K(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  is the field of rational functions,
- $G_n := \text{Aut}_{K\text{-alg}}(P_n)$  and  $\mathbb{Q}_n := \text{Aut}_{K\text{-alg}}(Q_n)$ ;
- $\partial_1 := \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1}, \dots, \partial_n := \frac{\partial}{\partial x_n}$  are the partial derivatives ( $K$ -linear derivations) of  $P_n$ ,
- $D_n := \text{Der}_K(P_n) = \bigoplus_{i=1}^n P_n \partial_i \subseteq E_n := \text{Der}_K(Q_n) = \bigoplus_{i=1}^n Q_n \partial_i$  are the Lie algebras of  $K$ -derivations of  $P_n$  and  $Q_n$  respectively where  $[\partial, \delta] := \partial\delta - \delta\partial$ ,
- $\mathbb{G}_n := \text{Aut}_{\text{Lie}}(D_n)$  and  $\mathbb{E}_n := \text{Aut}_{\text{Lie}}(E_n)$ ,
- $\delta_1 := \text{ad}(\partial_1), \dots, \delta_n := \text{ad}(\partial_n)$  are the inner derivations of the Lie algebras  $D_n$  and  $E_n$  where  $\text{ad}(a)(b) := [a, b]$ ,
- $\mathcal{D}_n := \bigoplus_{i=1}^n K\partial_i$ ,
- $\mathcal{H}_n := \bigoplus_{i=1}^n KH_i$  where  $H_1 := x_1\partial_1, \dots, H_n := x_n\partial_n$ ,
- for each natural number  $n \geq 2$ ,  $\mathfrak{u}_n := K\partial_1 + P_1\partial_2 + \cdots + P_{n-1}\partial_n$  is the Lie algebra of triangular polynomial derivations (it is a Lie subalgebra of  $D_n$ ) and  $\text{Aut}_{\text{Lie}}(\mathfrak{u}_n)$  is its group of automorphisms.

**Theorem 1.1** [4]  $\mathbb{G}_n = G_n$ .

The aim of the paper is to prove the following theorem.

**Theorem 1.2**  $\mathbb{E}_n = \mathbb{Q}_n$ .

*Structure of the proof.* (i)  $\mathbb{Q}_n \subseteq \mathbb{E}_n$  via the group monomorphism (Lemma 2.3 and (3))

$$\mathbb{Q}_n \rightarrow \mathbb{E}_n, \quad \sigma \mapsto \sigma : \partial \mapsto \sigma(\partial) := \sigma \partial \sigma^{-1}.$$

(ii) Let  $\sigma \in \mathbb{E}_n$ . Then  $\partial'_1 := \sigma(\partial_1), \dots, \partial'_n := \sigma(\partial_n)$  are commuting derivations of  $Q_n$  such that  $E_n = \bigoplus_{i=1}^n Q_n \partial'_i$  (Lemma 2.12.(2)) and

(iii)  $\bigcap_{i=1}^n \ker_{Q_n}(\partial'_i) = K$  (Lemma 2.12.(1)).

(iv)(crux) There exist elements  $x'_1, \dots, x'_n \in Q_n$  such that  $\partial'_i(x'_j) = \delta_{ij}$  for  $i, j = 1, \dots, n$  (Lemma 2.12.(3)).

(v)  $\sigma(x^\alpha \partial_i) = x'^\alpha \partial'_i$  for all  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^n$  and  $i = 1, \dots, n$  (Lemma 2.12.(6)).

(vi) The  $K$ -algebra homomorphism  $\sigma' : Q_n \rightarrow Q_n, x_i \mapsto x'_i, i = 1, \dots, n$  is an automorphism such that  $\sigma'(q \partial_i) = \sigma'(q) \partial'_i$  for all  $q \in Q_n$  and  $i = 1, \dots, n$ .

(vii)  $\text{Fix}_{\mathbb{E}_n}(\partial_1, \dots, \partial_n, H_1, \dots, H_n) = \{e\}$  (Proposition 2.9.(1)). Hence,  $\sigma = \sigma' \in \mathbb{Q}_n$ , by (v) and (vi), i.e.  $\mathbb{E}_n = \mathbb{Q}_n$ .  $\square$

**The groups of automorphisms of the Lie algebras  $D_n$  and  $\mathfrak{u}_n$ .**

**Theorem 1.3** (Theorem 5.3, [3])  $\text{Aut}_{\text{Lie}}(\mathfrak{u}_n) \simeq \mathbb{T}^n \ltimes (\text{UAut}_K(P_n)_n \ltimes (\mathbb{F}'_n \times \mathbb{E}_n))$  where  $\mathbb{T}^n$  is an algebraic  $n$ -dimensional torus,  $\text{UAut}_K(P_n)_n$  is an explicit factor group of the group  $\text{UAut}_K(P_n)$  of unitriangular polynomial automorphisms,  $\mathbb{F}'_n$  and  $\mathbb{E}_n$  are explicit groups that are isomorphic respectively to the groups  $\mathbb{I}$  and  $\mathbb{J}^{n-2}$  where  $\mathbb{I} := (1 + t^2 K[[t]], \cdot) \simeq K^\mathbb{N}$  and  $\mathbb{J} := (tK[[t]], +) \simeq K^\mathbb{N}$ .

Comparing the groups  $\mathbb{G}_n, \mathbb{E}_n$  and  $\text{Aut}_{\text{Lie}}(\mathfrak{u}_n)$  we see that the group  $\text{UAut}_K(P_n)_n$  of polynomial automorphisms is a *tiny* part of the group  $\text{Aut}_{\text{Lie}}(\mathfrak{u}_n)$  but in contrast  $\mathbb{G}_n = G_n$  and  $\mathbb{E}_n = \mathbb{Q}_n$ .

**Theorem 1.4** [1] *Every monomorphism of the Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{u}_n$  is an automorphism.*

Not every epimorphism of the Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{u}_n$  is an automorphism. Moreover, there are countably many distinct ideals  $\{I_{i\omega^{n-1}} \mid i \geq 0\}$  such that

$$I_0 = \{0\} \subset I_{\omega^{n-1}} \subset I_{2\omega^{n-1}} \subset \dots \subset I_{i\omega^{n-1}} \subset \dots$$

and the Lie algebras  $\mathfrak{u}_n/I_{i\omega^{n-1}}$  and  $\mathfrak{u}_n$  are isomorphic (Theorem 5.1.(1), [2]).

**Conjecture**, [4]. *Every homomorphism of the Lie algebra  $D_n$  is an automorphism.*

The groups of automorphisms of the *Witt*  $W_n$  ( $n \geq 2$ ) and the *Virasoro*  $\text{Vir}$  Lie algebras were found in [5].

## 2 Proof of Theorem 1.2

This section can be seen as a proof of Theorem 1.2. The proof is split into several statements that reflect ‘Structure of the proof of Theorem 1.2’ given in the Introduction.

Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be a Lie algebra and  $\mathcal{H}$  be its Lie subalgebra. The *centralizer*  $C_{\mathcal{G}}(\mathcal{H}) := \{x \in \mathcal{G} \mid [x, \mathcal{H}] = 0\}$  of  $\mathcal{H}$  in  $\mathcal{G}$  is a Lie subalgebra of  $\mathcal{G}$ . In particular,  $Z(\mathcal{G}) := C_{\mathcal{G}}(\mathcal{G})$  is the *centre* of the Lie algebra  $\mathcal{G}$ . The *normalizer*  $N_{\mathcal{G}}(\mathcal{H}) := \{x \in \mathcal{G} \mid [x, \mathcal{H}] \subseteq \mathcal{H}\}$  of  $\mathcal{H}$  in  $\mathcal{G}$  is a Lie subalgebra of  $\mathcal{G}$ , it is the largest Lie subalgebra of  $\mathcal{G}$  that contains  $\mathcal{H}$  as an ideal.

Let  $V$  be a vector space over  $K$ . A  $K$ -linear map  $\delta : V \rightarrow V$  is called a *locally nilpotent map* if  $V = \bigcup_{i \geq 1} \ker(\delta^i)$  or, equivalently, for every  $v \in V$ ,  $\delta^i(v) = 0$  for all  $i \gg 1$ . When  $\delta$  is a locally nilpotent map in  $V$  we also say that  $\delta$  *acts locally nilpotently* on  $V$ . Every *nilpotent* linear map

$\delta$ , that is  $\delta^n = 0$  for some  $n \geq 1$ , is a locally nilpotent map but not vice versa, in general. Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be a Lie algebra. Each element  $a \in \mathcal{G}$  determines the derivation of the Lie algebra  $\mathcal{G}$  by the rule  $\text{ad}(a) : \mathcal{G} \rightarrow \mathcal{G}, b \mapsto [a, b]$ , which is called the *inner derivation* associated with  $a$ . The set  $\text{Inn}(\mathcal{G})$  of all the inner derivations of the Lie algebra  $\mathcal{G}$  is a Lie subalgebra of the Lie algebra  $(\text{End}_K(\mathcal{G}), [\cdot, \cdot])$  where  $[f, g] := fg - gf$ . There is the short exact sequence of Lie algebras

$$0 \rightarrow Z(\mathcal{G}) \rightarrow \mathcal{G} \xrightarrow{\text{ad}} \text{Inn}(\mathcal{G}) \rightarrow 0,$$

that is  $\text{Inn}(\mathcal{G}) \simeq \mathcal{G}/Z(\mathcal{G})$  where  $Z(\mathcal{G})$  is the *centre* of the Lie algebra  $\mathcal{G}$  and  $\text{ad}([a, b]) = [\text{ad}(a), \text{ad}(b)]$  for all elements  $a, b \in \mathcal{G}$ . An element  $a \in \mathcal{G}$  is called a *locally nilpotent element* (respectively, a *nilpotent element*) if so is the inner derivation  $\text{ad}(a)$  of the Lie algebra  $\mathcal{G}$ .

**The Lie algebra  $E_n$ .** Since

$$E_n = \bigoplus_{i=1}^n Q_n \partial_i = \bigoplus_{i=1}^n Q_n H_i \quad (1)$$

every element  $\partial \in E_n$  is a unique sum  $\partial = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \partial_i = \sum_{i=1}^n b_i H_i$  where  $a_i = x_i b_i \in Q_n$ . The field  $Q_n$  is the union  $\bigcup_{0 \neq f \in P_n} P_{n,f}$  where  $P_{n,f}$  is the localization of  $P_n$  at the powers of  $f$ . The algebra  $Q_n$  is a localization of  $P_{n,f}$ . Hence  $D_{n,f} := \text{Der}_K(P_{n,f}) = \bigoplus_{i=1}^n P_{n,f} \partial_i \subseteq E_n$  and

$$E_n = \bigcup_{0 \neq f \in P_n} D_{n,f}.$$

$Q_n$  is an  $E_n$ -module. The field  $Q_n$  is a (left)  $E_n$ -module:  $E_n \times Q_n \rightarrow Q_n, (\partial, q) \mapsto \partial * q$ . In more detail, if  $\partial = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \partial_i$  where  $a_i \in Q_n$  then

$$\partial * q = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \frac{\partial q}{\partial x_i}.$$

The  $E_n$ -module  $Q_n$  is not a simple module since  $K$  is an  $E_n$ -submodule of  $Q_n$ , and

$$\bigcap_{i=1}^n \ker_{Q_n}(\partial_i) = K. \quad (2)$$

**Lemma 2.1** *The  $E_n$ -module  $Q_n/K$  is simple with  $\text{End}_{E_n}(Q_n/K) = K \text{id}$  where  $\text{id}$  is the identity map.*

*Proof.* We have to show that for each non-scalar rational function, say  $pq^{-1} \in Q_n$ , the  $E_n$ -submodule  $M$  of  $Q_n/K$  it generates coincides with the  $E_n$ -module  $Q_n/K$ . By (2),  $a_i = \partial_i * (pq^{-1}) \neq 0$  for some  $i$ . Then for all elements  $u \in Q_n$ ,  $ua_i^{-1} \partial_i * (pq^{-1} + K) = u + K$ . So,  $Q_n/K$  is a simple  $E_n$ -module. Let  $f \in \text{End}_{E_n}(Q_n/K)$ . Then applying  $f$  to the equalities  $\partial_i * (x_1 + K) = \delta_{i1}$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , we obtain the equalities

$$\partial_i * f(x_1 + K) = \delta_{i1} \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, n.$$

Hence,  $f(x_1 + K) \in \bigcap_{i=2}^n \ker_{Q_n/K}(\partial_i) \cap \ker_{Q_n/K}(\partial_i^2) = (K(x_1)/K) \cap \ker_{Q_n/K}(\partial_i^2) = K(x_1 + K)$ . So,  $f(x_1 + K) = \lambda(x_1 + K)$  and so  $f = \lambda \text{id}$ , by the simplicity of the  $E_n$ -module  $Q_n/K$ .  $\square$

**The Cartan subalgebra  $\mathcal{H}_n$  of  $E_n$ .** A nilpotent Lie subalgebra  $C$  of a Lie algebra  $\mathcal{G}$  is called a *Cartan subalgebra* of  $\mathcal{G}$  if it coincides with its normalizer. We use often the following obvious observation: *An abelian Lie subalgebra that coincides with its centralizer is a maximal abelian Lie subalgebra.*

**Lemma 2.2** 1.  $\mathcal{H}_n$  is a Cartan subalgebra of  $E_n$ .

2.  $\mathcal{H}_n = C_{E_n}(\mathcal{H}_n)$  is a maximal abelian Lie subalgebra of  $E_n$ .

*Proof.* 2. Clearly,  $\mathcal{H}_n \subseteq C_{E_n}(\mathcal{H}_n)$ . Let  $\partial = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i H_i \in C_{E_n}(\mathcal{H}_n)$  where  $a_i \in Q_n$ . Then all  $a_i \in \cap_{i=1}^n \ker_{Q_n}(H_i) = \cap_{i=1}^n \ker_{Q_n}(\partial_i) = K$ , by (2), and so  $\partial \in \mathcal{H}_n$ . Therefore,  $\mathcal{H}_n = C_{E_n}(\mathcal{H}_n)$  is a maximal abelian Lie subalgebra of  $E_n$ .

1. By statement 2, we have to show that  $\mathcal{H}_n = N := N_{E_n}(\mathcal{H}_n)$ . Let  $\partial = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i H_i \in N$ , we have to show that all  $a_i \in K$ . By statement 2, for all  $j = 1, \dots, n$ ,  $\mathcal{H}_n \ni [H_j, \partial] = \sum_{i=1}^n H_j(a_i) H_i$ , and so  $H_j(a_i) \in K$  for all  $i$  and  $j$ . This condition holds if all  $a_i \in K$ , i.e.  $\partial \in \mathcal{H}_n$ . Suppose that  $a_i \notin K$  for some  $i$ , we seek a contradiction. Then necessarily,  $a_i \notin K(x_1, \dots, \hat{x}_j, \dots, x_n)$  for some  $j$ . Since  $Q_n = K(x_1, \dots, \hat{x}_j, \dots, x_n)(x_j)$ , the result follows from the following claim.

*Claim:* If  $a \in K(x) \setminus K$  then  $H(a) \notin K$ . The field  $K(x)$  is a subfield of the series field  $K((x)) := \{\sum_{i>-\infty} \lambda_i x^i \mid \lambda_i \in K\}$ . Since  $H(\sum_{i>-\infty} \lambda_i x^i) = \sum_{i>-\infty} i \lambda_i x^i$ , the Claim is obvious. Then, by the Claim,  $H_j(a_i) \notin K$ , a contradiction.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.3** [5] *Let  $R$  be a commutative ring such that there exists a derivation  $\partial \in \text{Der}(R)$  such that  $r\partial \neq 0$  for all nonzero elements  $r \in R$  (eg,  $R = P_n, Q_n$  and  $\delta = \partial_1$ ). Then the group homomorphism*

$$\text{Aut}(R) \rightarrow \text{Aut}_{\text{Lie}}(\text{Der}(R)), \quad \sigma \mapsto \sigma : \delta \mapsto \sigma(\delta) := \sigma\delta\sigma^{-1},$$

*is a monomorphism.*

**The  $\mathbb{Q}_n$ -module  $E_n$ .** The Lie algebra  $E_n$  is a  $\mathbb{Q}_n$ -module,

$$\mathbb{Q}_n \times E_n \rightarrow E_n, \quad (\sigma, \partial) \mapsto \sigma(\partial) := \sigma\partial\sigma^{-1}.$$

By Lemma 2.3, the  $\mathbb{Q}_n$ -module  $E_n$  is faithful and the map

$$\mathbb{Q}_n \rightarrow \mathbb{E}_n, \quad \sigma \mapsto \sigma : \partial \mapsto \sigma(\partial) := \sigma\partial\sigma^{-1}, \quad (3)$$

is a group monomorphism. We identify the group  $\mathbb{Q}_n$  with its image in  $\mathbb{E}_n$ ,  $\mathbb{Q}_n \subseteq \mathbb{E}_n$ . Every automorphism  $\sigma \in \mathbb{Q}_n$  is uniquely determined by the elements

$$x'_1 := \sigma(x_1), \dots, x'_n := \sigma(x_n).$$

Let  $M_n(Q_n)$  be the algebra of  $n \times n$  matrices over  $Q_n$ . The matrix  $J(\sigma) := (J(\sigma)_{ij}) \in M_n(Q_n)$ , where  $J(\sigma)_{ij} = \frac{\partial x'_j}{\partial x_i}$ , is called the *Jacobian matrix* of the automorphism (endomorphism)  $\sigma$  and its determinant  $\mathcal{J}(\sigma) := \det J(\sigma)$  is called the *Jacobian* of  $\sigma$ . So, the  $j$ 'th column of  $J(\sigma)$  is the *gradient*  $\text{grad } x'_j := (\frac{\partial x'_j}{\partial x_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial x'_j}{\partial x_n})^T$  of the polynomial  $x'_j$ . Then the derivations

$$\partial'_1 := \sigma\partial_1\sigma^{-1}, \dots, \partial'_n := \sigma\partial_n\sigma^{-1}$$

are the partial derivatives of  $Q_n$  with respect to the variables  $x'_1, \dots, x'_n$ ,

$$\partial'_1 = \frac{\partial}{\partial x'_1}, \dots, \partial'_n = \frac{\partial}{\partial x'_n}. \quad (4)$$

Every derivation  $\partial \in E_n$  is a unique sum  $\partial = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \partial_i$  where  $a_i = \partial * x_i \in Q_n$ . Let  $\partial := (\partial_1, \dots, \partial_n)^T$  and  $\partial' := (\partial'_1, \dots, \partial'_n)^T$  where  $T$  stands for the transposition. Then

$$\partial' = J(\sigma)^{-1} \partial, \quad \text{i.e.} \quad \partial'_i = \sum_{j=1}^n (J(\sigma)^{-1})_{ij} \partial_j \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, n. \quad (5)$$

In more detail, if  $\partial' = A\partial$  where  $A = (a_{ij}) \in M_n(Q_n)$ , i.e.  $\partial_i = \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} \partial_j$ . Then for all  $i, j = 1, \dots, n$ ,

$$\delta_{ij} = \partial'_i * x'_j = \sum_{k=1}^n a_{ik} \frac{\partial x'_j}{\partial x_k}$$

where  $\delta_{ij}$  is the Kronecker delta function. The equalities above can be written in the matrix form as  $AJ(\sigma) = 1$  where 1 is the identity matrix. Therefore,  $A = J(\sigma)^{-1}$ .

**The maximal abelian Lie subalgebra  $\mathcal{D}_n$  of  $E_n$ .** Suppose that a group  $G$  acts on a set  $S$ . For a nonempty subset  $T$  of  $S$ ,  $\text{St}_G(T) := \{g \in G \mid gT = T\}$  is the *stabilizer* of the set  $T$  in  $G$  and  $\text{Fix}_G(T) := \{g \in G \mid gt = t \text{ for all } t \in T\}$  is the *fixator* of the set  $T$  in  $G$ . Clearly,  $\text{Fix}_G(T)$  is a *normal* subgroup of  $\text{St}_G(T)$ .

**Lemma 2.4** 1.  $C_{E_n}(\mathcal{D}_n) = \mathcal{D}_n$  and so  $\mathcal{D}_n$  is a maximal abelian Lie subalgebra of  $E_n$ .

2.  $\text{Fix}_{\mathbb{Q}_n}(\mathcal{D}_n) = \text{Fix}_{\mathbb{Q}_n}(\partial_1, \dots, \partial_n) = \text{Sh}_n$ .

3.  $\text{Fix}_{\mathbb{Q}_n}(\partial_1, \dots, \partial_n, H_1, \dots, H_n) = \{e\}$ .

4.  $\text{Cen}_{E_n}(\mathcal{D}_n + \mathcal{H}_n) = 0$ .

*Proof.* 1. Statement 1 follows from (2): Clearly,  $\mathcal{D}_n \subseteq C_{E_n}(\mathcal{D}_n)$ . Let  $\partial = \sum a_i \partial_i \in C_{E_n}(\mathcal{D}_n)$  where  $a_i \in \mathbb{Q}_n$ . Then all elements  $a_i \in \bigcap_{i=1}^n \ker_{\mathbb{Q}_n} \partial_i = K$ , by (2), and so  $\partial \in \mathcal{D}_n$ . So,  $C_{E_n}(\mathcal{D}_n) = \mathcal{D}_n$  and as a result  $\mathcal{D}_n$  is a maximal abelian Lie subalgebra of  $E_n$ .

2. Let  $\sigma \in \text{Fix}_{\mathbb{Q}_n}(\mathcal{D}_n)$  and  $J(\sigma) = (J_{ij})$ . By (5),  $\partial = J(\sigma)\partial$ , and so, for all  $i, j = 1, \dots, n$ ,  $\delta_{ij} = \partial_i * x_j = J_{ij}$ , i.e.  $J(\sigma) = 1$ , or equivalently, by (2),

$$x'_1 = x_1 + \lambda_1, \dots, x'_n = x_n + \lambda_n$$

for some scalars  $\lambda_i \in K$ , and so  $\sigma \in \text{Sh}_n$  (since  $x'_i - x_i \in \bigcap_{j=1}^n \ker_{\mathbb{Q}_n}(\partial_j) = K$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ ).

3. Let  $\sigma \in \text{Fix}_{\mathbb{Q}_n}(\partial_1, \dots, \partial_n, H_1, \dots, H_n)$ . Then  $\sigma \in \text{Fix}_{\mathbb{Q}_n}(\partial_1, \dots, \partial_n) = \text{Sh}_n$ , by statement 2. So,  $\sigma(x_1) = x_1 + \lambda_1, \dots, \sigma(x_n) = x_n + \lambda_n$  where  $\lambda_i \in K$ . Then  $x_i \partial_i = \sigma(x_i \partial_i) = (x_i + \lambda_i) \partial_i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , and so  $\lambda_1 = \dots = \lambda_n = 0$ . This means that  $\sigma = e$ . So,  $\text{Fix}_{\mathbb{Q}_n}(\partial_1, \dots, \partial_n, H_1, \dots, H_n) = \{e\}$ .

4. Statement 4 follows from statement 1 and Lemma 2.2.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.5** Let  $A$  be a  $K$ -algebra,  $\text{Der}_K(A)$  be the Lie algebra of  $K$ -derivations of  $A$  and  $\mathcal{D}(A)$  be the ring of differential operators on  $A$ . If the algebra  $\mathcal{D}(A)$  is simple and generated by  $A$  and  $\text{Der}_K(A)$  then the  $\mathcal{D}(A)$ -module  $A$  is simple.

*Proof.* Let  $\mathfrak{a}$  be a nonzero  $\mathcal{D}(A)$ -submodule of  $A$ . So,  $\mathfrak{a}$  is an ideal of  $A$  such that  $\partial(\mathfrak{a}) \subseteq \mathfrak{a}$  for all  $\partial \in \text{Der}_K(A)$ . The algebra  $\mathcal{D} := \mathcal{D}(A)$  is generated by  $A$  and  $D$ . So,  $\mathcal{D}\mathfrak{a} \subseteq \mathfrak{a}\mathcal{D}$  and  $\mathfrak{a}\mathcal{D} \subseteq \mathcal{D}\mathfrak{a}$ , i.e.  $\mathcal{D}\mathfrak{a} = \mathfrak{a}\mathcal{D}$  is a nonzero ideal of the simple algebra  $\mathcal{D}$ . Hence,  $1 \in \mathcal{D}\mathfrak{a}$  and so  $1 = \sum_i a_i d_i$  for some elements  $d_i \in \mathcal{D}$  and  $a_i \in \mathfrak{a} \subseteq A$ . Then

$$1 = 1 * 1 = \sum_i a_i d_i * 1 \in \mathfrak{a},$$

hence  $\mathfrak{a} = A$ , i.e.  $A$  is a simple  $\mathcal{D}(A)$ -module.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.6** 1.  $E_n$  is a simple Lie algebra.

2.  $Z(E_n) = \{0\}$ .

3.  $[E_n, E_n] = E_n$ .

*Proof.* 1. (i)  $n = 1$ , i.e.  $E_1 = K(x)\partial$  is a simple Lie algebra: We split the proof into several steps.

(a)  $D_1 := K[x]\partial$  and  $W_1 := K[x, x^{-1}]\partial$  are simple Lie subalgebras of  $E_1$  (easy).

(b) For all  $\lambda \in K$ ,  $W_1(\lambda) := K[x, (x - \lambda)^{-1}]$  is a simple Lie subalgebra of  $E_1$ , by applying the  $K$ -automorphism  $s_\lambda : x \mapsto x - \lambda$  of the  $K$ -algebra  $\mathbb{Q}_1$  to  $W_1$ , i.e.  $s_\lambda(W_1) = W_1(\lambda)$ .

(c) For any nonempty subset  $I \subset K$ ,  $W_1(I) := W_1(I)_K := K[x, (x - \lambda)^{-1} \mid \lambda \in I]\partial$  is a simple Lie subalgebra of  $E_1$ : Let  $\mathfrak{a}$  be a nonzero ideal of  $W_1(I)$  and  $0 \neq a\partial \in \mathfrak{a}$ . Then either  $a\partial \in D_1$  or

$0 \neq [p\partial, a\partial] \in D_1 \cap \mathfrak{a}$  for some  $p \in P_1$ . Since  $D_1 \subseteq W_1(\lambda)$  for all  $\lambda \in I$  and  $W_1(\lambda)$  are simple Lie algebra,  $\mathfrak{a} \cap W_1(\lambda) = W_1(\lambda)$ . Hence  $\mathfrak{a} = W_1(I)$  since

$$W_1(I) = \bigcup_{\lambda \in I} W_1(\lambda),$$

i.e.  $W_1(I)$  is a simple Lie algebra.

(d) If  $K$  is an algebraically closed field then  $E_1$  is a simple Lie algebra since  $E_1 = W_1(K)$ .

The algebra  $E_1$  is the union  $\bigcup_{0 \neq f \in P_1} W_1[f^{-1}]$  of the Lie algebras  $W_1[f^{-1}] := P_{1,f}\partial$  where  $P_{1,f}$  is the localization of  $P_1$  at the powers of the element  $f$ . Let  $\mathfrak{a}$  be the ideal of  $E_1$  generated by a nonzero element  $a = pq^{-1}\partial$  for some  $pq^{-1} \in Q_1$ . Clearly,  $a \in W_1[(fq)^{-1}]$  for all nonzero elements  $f \in P_1$  and  $E_1 = \bigcup_{0 \neq f \in P_1} W_1[(fq)^{-1}]$ . So, to finish the proof of (i) it suffices to show that all the algebras  $W_1[f^{-1}]$  are simple.

(e)  $A := W_1[f^{-1}]$  is a simple Lie algebra for all  $0 \neq f \in P_1$ : Let  $K' := K(\nu_1, \dots, \nu_s)$  be the subfield of the algebraic closure  $\bar{K}$  of  $K$  generated by the roots  $\nu_1, \dots, \nu_s$  of the polynomial  $f$  and  $G = \text{Gal}(K'/K)$  be the Galois group of the finite Galois field extension  $K'/K$  (since  $\text{char}(K) = 0$ ). Let  $K' = \bigoplus_{i=1}^d K\theta_i$  for some elements  $\theta_i \in K'$  and  $\theta_1 = 1$ . By (c),

$$A' := K'[x, f^{-1}]\partial = W_1(\nu_1, \dots, \nu_s)_{K'}$$

is a simple Lie  $K'$ -algebra. Let  $a \in A \setminus \{0\}$ ,  $\mathfrak{a}$  and  $\mathfrak{a}'$  be the ideals in  $A$  and  $A'$  respectively that are generated by the element  $a$ . Then  $\mathfrak{a}' = A'$ , by (c). Notice that  $A' = \sum_{i=1}^d \theta_i A$  and for  $a' = \sum_{i=1}^d \theta_i a_i, b = \sum_{i=1}^d \theta_i b_i \in A'$  where  $a_i, b_i \in A$ ,  $[a', b] = \sum_{i=1}^d \theta_i \theta_j [a_i, b_j]$ . Moreover, every element in  $A' = \mathfrak{a}'$  is a linear combination of several commutators in  $A'$  (where  $c = \sum_{i=1}^d \theta_k c_k \in A'$  and  $c_k \in A$ ),

$$[a, [a', \dots [b, c] \dots]] = \sum \theta_i \dots \theta_j \theta_k [a, [a_i, \dots [b_j, c_k] \dots]]. \quad (6)$$

The *symmetrization map*  $\text{Sym} : K' \rightarrow K, \lambda \mapsto |G|^{-1} \sum_{g \in G} g(\lambda)$ , is a surjection such that  $\text{Sym}(\mu) = \mu$  for all  $\mu \in K$ . Clearly,  $K'(x)/K(x)$  is a Galois field extension with the Galois group  $G$  where the elements of  $G$  act trivially on the element  $x$ . So, the symmetrization map  $\text{Sym}$  can be extended to the surjection  $K'(x) \rightarrow K(x)$  by the same rule, and then to the surjection  $A' \rightarrow A, f\partial \mapsto \text{Sym}(f)\partial$ .

Each element  $e \in A \subseteq A'$ , can be expressed as a finite sum of elements in (6). Then applying  $\text{Sym}$ , we see that  $e$  is a linear combination of elements (commutators) from  $\mathfrak{a}$ , i.e.  $A$  is a simple Lie algebra.

(ii)  $E_n$  is a simple Lie algebra for  $n \geq 2$ : Let  $a \in E_n \setminus \{0\}$  and  $\mathfrak{a} = (a)$  be the ideal in  $E_n$  generated by the element  $a = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \partial_i$  where  $a_i \in Q_n$ .

(a)  $\mathfrak{a} \cap D_n \neq 0$ : If  $a \in D_n$  then there is nothing to prove. Suppose that  $a \notin D_n$ .

(a1) Suppose that  $a_i \in K(x_i)$  for all  $i$ . Then  $a_i \notin K[x_i]$  for some  $i$  (since  $a \notin D_n$ ), and so

$$\mathfrak{a} \ni [H_i, a] = H_i(a_i)\partial_i \in K(x_i)\partial_i \setminus \{0\}.$$

By (i),  $\partial_1 \in \mathfrak{a} \cap D_n$ .

(a2) Suppose that  $a_i \notin K(x_i)$  for some  $i$ . Then  $\partial_j(a_i) \neq 0$  for some  $j \neq i$ . Let  $q \in P_n$  be the common denominator of the fractions  $a_1, \dots, a_n$ , that is  $a_1 = p_1 q^{-1}, \dots, a_n = p_n q^{-1}$  for some elements  $p_i \in P_n$ . For all  $n \geq 2$ ,

$$D_n \cap \mathfrak{a} \ni [q^n \partial_j, a] = q^n \partial_j(a_i)\partial_i + \sum_{k \neq i} (\dots) \partial_k \neq 0.$$

(b)  $\mathfrak{a} = D_n$  since  $D_n$  is a simple Lie algebra, [4].

(c)  $\mathfrak{a} \supseteq K(x_i)\partial_i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ : In view of symmetry it suffices to prove that  $\mathfrak{a} \supseteq K(x_1)\partial_1$ . Notice that for all  $u \in Q_n$  and  $i = 2, \dots, n$ ,

$$\mathfrak{a} \ni [u\partial_1, x_1\partial_i] = u\partial_i - x_1\partial_i(u)\partial_1.$$

Therefore,  $\mathfrak{a} + Q_n \partial_1 = E_n$ . The field of rational functions  $Q_n = Q_n(K)$  can be seen as the field of rational functions  $Q_n(K) = Q_{n-1}(K')$  where  $K' = K(x_1)$ . Then

$$E'_{n-1} := \text{Der}_{K'}(Q_{n-1}(K')) = \bigoplus_{i=2}^n Q_{n-1}(K') \partial_i = \bigoplus_{i=2}^n Q_n \partial_i.$$

By Lemma 2.5, the  $E'_{n-1}$ -module  $Q'_{n-1}/K' = Q_n/K(x_1)$  is simple. The Lie algebra  $E'_{n-1}$  is a Lie subalgebra of  $E_n$ , and  $E_n$  can be seen as a left  $E'_{n-1}$ -module with respect to the adjoint action. The ideal  $\mathfrak{a}$  of  $E_n$  is an  $E'_{n-1}$ -submodule of  $E_n$ . The Lie algebra  $K(x_1) \partial_1$  is simple and  $\mathfrak{a} \cap K(x_1) \partial_1$  is a nonzero ideal of it (by (b)). Therefore,  $K(x_1) \partial_1 \subseteq \mathfrak{a}$ . The  $E'_{n-1}$ -module  $E_n/\mathfrak{a} = (\mathfrak{a} + Q_n \partial_1)/\mathfrak{a} \simeq Q_n \partial_1/\mathfrak{a} \cap Q_n \partial_1$  is an epimorphic image of the simple  $E'_{n-1}$ -module  $Q_n/K(x_1)$  via

$$\varphi : Q_n/K(x_1) \rightarrow Q_n \partial_1/\mathfrak{a} \cap Q_n \partial_1, \quad u + K(x_1) \mapsto u \partial_1 + \mathfrak{a} \cap Q_n \partial_1,$$

with  $0 \neq (P_n + K(x_1))/K(x_1) \subseteq \ker(\varphi)$ . Therefore,  $Q_n \partial_1 = \mathfrak{a} \cap Q_n \partial_1 \subseteq \mathfrak{a}$ , and so  $E_n = \mathfrak{a} + Q_n \partial_1 = \mathfrak{a}$ . So,  $E_n$  is a simple Lie algebra.

2 and 3. Statements 2 and 3 follow from statement 1.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.7** *For all nonzero elements  $q \in Q_n$  and  $i = 1, \dots, n$ ,  $C_{E_n}(qP_n \partial_i) = \{0\}$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $c \in C_{E_n}(qP_n \partial_i)$ . Then for all elements  $p \in P_n$ ,

$$0 = [c, qp \partial_i] = c(p) \cdot q \partial_i + p[c, q \partial_i] = c(p) \cdot q \partial_i.$$

Then  $c(p) = 0$  for all  $p \in P_n$ , and so  $c = 0$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 2.8** [4]  $\text{Fix}_{\mathbb{G}_n}(\partial_1, \dots, \partial_n, H_1, \dots, H_n) = \{e\}$ .

Let  $d_1, \dots, d_n$  be a commuting linear maps acting in a vector space  $E$ . Let  $\text{Nil}_E(d_1, \dots, d_n) := \{e \in E \mid d_i^j e = 0 \text{ for all } i = 1, \dots, n \text{ and some } j = j(e)\}$ . Let  $\text{Nil}_{E_n}(\mathcal{D}_n) := \text{Nil}_{E_n}(\delta_1, \dots, \delta_n)$ . Clearly,  $\text{Nil}_{E_n}(\mathcal{D}_n) = D_n$  is a Lie subalgebra of  $E_n$ .

**Proposition 2.9** 1.  $\text{Fix}_{\mathbb{E}_n}(\partial_1, \dots, \partial_n, H_1, \dots, H_n) = \{e\}$ .

2.  $\text{Fix}_{\mathbb{E}_n}(\partial_1, \dots, \partial_n) = \text{Sh}_n$ .

*Proof.* 1. Let  $\sigma \in F := \text{Fix}_{\mathbb{E}_n}(\partial_1, \dots, \partial_n, H_1, \dots, H_n)$ . We have to show that  $\sigma = e$ . Then  $\sigma^{-1} \in F$  and  $\sigma^{\pm 1}(\text{Nil}_{E_n}(\mathcal{D}_n)) \subseteq \text{Nil}_{E_n}(\mathcal{D}_n)$ , i.e.  $\sigma(D_n) = D_n$  since  $\text{Nil}_{E_n}(\mathcal{D}_n) = D_n$ . So,  $\sigma|_{D_n} \in \text{Fix}_{\mathbb{G}_n}(\partial_1, \dots, \partial_n, H_1, \dots, H_n) = \{e\}$  (Proposition 2.8), i.e.  $\sigma(\partial) = \partial$  for all  $\partial \in D_n$ . Let  $0 \neq \delta \in E_n$ . Then  $\delta = q^{-1} \partial$  for some  $0 \neq q \in P_n$  and  $\partial \in D_n$ . Now,  $[q^2 p \partial_i, \delta] = \partial'$  for all  $p \in P_n$ . Applying  $\sigma$  to the equality yields the equality  $[q^2 p \partial_i, \sigma(\delta)] = \partial'$ . By taking the difference, we obtain  $\sigma(\delta) - \delta \in C_{E_n}(q^2 P_n \partial_i) = \{0\}$ , by Lemma 2.7, hence  $\sigma = e$ .

2. Clearly,  $\text{Sh}_n \subseteq F := \text{Fix}_{\mathbb{E}_n}(\partial_1, \dots, \partial_n)$ . Let  $\sigma \in F$  and  $H'_i := \sigma(H_i), \dots, H'_n := \sigma(H_n)$ . Applying the automorphism  $\sigma$  to the commutation relations  $[\partial_i, H_j] = \delta_{ij} \partial_i$  gives the relations  $[\partial_i, H'_j] = \delta_{ij} \partial_i$ . By taking the difference, we see that  $[\partial_i, H'_j - H_j] = 0$  for all  $i$  and  $j$ . Therefore,  $H'_i = H_i + d_i$  for some elements  $d_i \in C_{E_n}(\mathcal{D}_n) = D_n$  (Lemma 2.4.(1)), and so  $d_i = \sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_{ij} \partial_j$  for some elements  $\lambda_{ij} \in K$ . The elements  $H'_1, \dots, H'_n$  commute, hence

$$[H_j, d_i] = [H_i, d_j] \text{ for all } i, j,$$

or equivalently,

$$\lambda_{ij} \partial_j = \lambda_{ji} \partial_i \text{ for all } i, j.$$

This means that  $\lambda_{ij} = 0$  for all  $i \neq j$ , i.e.

$$H'_i = H_i + \lambda_{ii} \partial_i = (x_i + \lambda_{ii}) \partial_i = s_\lambda(H_i)$$

where  $s_\lambda \in \text{Sh}_n$ ,  $s_\lambda(x_i) = x_i + \lambda_{ii}$  for all  $i$ . Then  $s_\lambda^{-1}\sigma \in \text{Fix}_{\mathbb{E}_n}(\partial_1, \dots, \partial_n, H_1, \dots, H_n) = \{e\}$  (statement 1), and so  $\sigma = s_\lambda \in \text{Sh}_n$ .  $\square$

**The automorphism  $\nu$ .** Let  $\nu$  be the  $K$ -automorphism of  $Q_n$  given by the rule  $\nu(x_i) = x_i^{-1}$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . Then

$$\nu(\partial_i) = -x_i H_i, \quad \nu(H_i) = -H_i, \quad \nu(x_i H_i) = -\partial_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, n. \quad (7)$$

By (7), the elements  $X_1 := x_1 H_1, \dots, X_n := x_n H_n$  commute and the next lemma follows from Lemma 2.4 and Proposition 2.9 since  $\mathcal{X}_n := \nu(\mathcal{D}_n) = \bigoplus_{i=1}^n K X_i$ .

**Lemma 2.10** 1.  $C_{E_n}(\mathcal{X}_n) = \mathcal{X}_n$  is a maximal abelian Lie subalgebra of  $E_n$ .

2.  $\text{Fix}_{Q_n}(X_1, \dots, X_n) = \text{Fix}_{\mathbb{E}_n}(X_1, \dots, X_n) = \text{Sh}_n$ .

3.  $\text{Fix}_{Q_n}(X_1, \dots, X_n, H_1, \dots, H_n) = \text{Fix}_{\mathbb{E}_n}(X_1, \dots, X_n, H_1, \dots, H_n) = \{e\}$ .

The following lemma is well-known and it is easy to prove.

**Lemma 2.11** Let  $\partial$  be a locally nilpotent derivation of a commutative  $K$ -algebra  $A$  such that  $\partial(x) = 1$  for some element  $x \in A$ . Then  $A = A^\partial[x]$  is a polynomial algebra over the ring  $A^\partial := \ker(\partial)$  of constants of the derivation  $\partial$  in the variable  $x$ .

The next lemma is the core of the proof of Theorem 1.2.

**Lemma 2.12** Let  $\sigma \in \mathbb{E}_n$ ,  $\partial'_1 := \sigma(\partial_1), \dots, \partial'_n := \sigma(\partial_n)$  and  $\delta'_1 := \text{ad}(\partial'_1), \dots, \delta'_n := \text{ad}(\partial'_n)$ . Then

1.  $\partial'_1, \dots, \partial'_n$  are commuting derivations of  $Q_n$  such that  $\bigcap_{i=1}^n \ker_{Q_n}(\partial'_i) = K$ .
2.  $E_n = \bigoplus_{i=1}^n Q_n \partial'_i$ .
3. For each  $i = 1, \dots, n$ ,  $\sigma(x_i \partial_i) = x'_i \partial'_i$  for some elements  $x'_i \in Q_n$ . The elements  $x'_1, \dots, x'_n$  are algebraically independent and  $\partial'_i(x'_j) = \delta_{ij}$  for  $i, j = 1, \dots, n$ .
4.  $\text{Nil}_{Q_n}(\partial'_1, \dots, \partial'_n) = P'_n$  where  $P'_n := K[x'_1, \dots, x'_n]$ .
5.  $\text{Nil}_{E_n}(\delta'_1, \dots, \delta'_n) = \bigoplus_{i=1}^n P'_n \partial'_i$ .
6.  $\sigma(x^\alpha \partial_i) = x'^\alpha \partial'_i$  for all  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^n$  and  $i = 1, \dots, n$ .
7.  $\sigma' : Q_n \rightarrow Q_n$ ,  $x_i \mapsto x'_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$  is a  $K$ -algebra homomorphism (statement 3) such that  $\sigma'(a \partial_i) = \sigma'(a) \sigma(\partial_i)$ .
8. The  $K$ -algebra homomorphism  $\sigma'$  is an automorphism.

*Proof.* 1. The elements  $\partial_1, \dots, \partial_n$  are commuting derivations, hence so are  $\partial'_1, \dots, \partial'_n$ . Let  $\lambda \in \bigcap_{i=1}^n \ker_{Q_n}(\partial'_i)$ . Then

$$\lambda \partial'_1 \in C_{E_n}(\partial'_1, \dots, \partial'_n) = \sigma(C_{E_n}(\partial_1, \dots, \partial_n)) = \sigma(C_{E_n}(\mathcal{D}_n)) = \sigma(\mathcal{D}_n) = \sigma\left(\bigoplus_{i=1}^n K \partial_i\right) = \bigoplus_{i=1}^n K \partial'_i,$$

since  $C_{E_n}(\mathcal{D}_n) = \mathcal{D}_n$ , Lemma 2.4.(1). Then  $\lambda \in K$  since otherwise the infinite dimensional space  $\bigoplus_{i \geq 0} K \lambda^i \partial'_1$  would be a subspace of the finite dimensional space  $\sigma(\mathcal{D}_n)$ .

2. It suffices to show that the elements  $\partial'_1, \dots, \partial'_n$  of the  $n$ -dimensional (left) vector space  $E_n$  over the field  $Q_n$  are  $Q_n$ -linearly independent (the key reason for that is statement 1). Let  $V = \sum_{i=1}^n Q_n \partial'_i$ . Suppose that  $m := \dim_{Q_n}(V) < n$ , we seek a contradiction. Up to order, let  $\partial'_1, \dots, \partial'_m$  be a  $Q_n$ -basis of  $V$ . Then  $\partial_{m+1} = \sum_{i=1}^m a_i \partial'_i$  for some elements  $a_i \in Q_n$ . By applying  $\delta'_j$  ( $j = 1, \dots, n$ ), we see that  $0 = \sum_{i=1}^m \partial'_j(a_i) \partial'_i$ , and so  $a_i \in \bigcap_{i=1}^n \ker_{Q_n}(\partial'_j) = K$ , by statement 1. This means that the elements  $\partial'_1, \dots, \partial'_m$  are  $K$ -linearly dependent, a contradiction.



3. Let  $H'_i := \sigma(x_i \partial_i)$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . By statement 2,  $H'_i = \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} \partial'_j$  for some elements  $a_{ij} \in Q_n$ . Applying the automorphism  $\sigma$  to the relations  $\delta_{ij} \partial_j = [\partial_j, H_i]$  yields the relations

$$\delta_{ij} \partial'_i = \sum_{k=1}^n \partial'_j(a_{ik}) \partial'_k.$$

Let  $x'_i := a_{ii}$ . Then  $\partial'_j(x'_i) = \delta_{ji}$  and  $\partial'_j(a_{ik}) = 0$  for all  $k \neq i$ . By statement 1,  $a_{ik} \in K$  for all  $i \neq k$ . Now,

$$H'_i := x'_i \partial'_i + \sum_{j \neq i} a_{ij} \partial'_j.$$

The elements  $H'_1, \dots, H'_n$  commute, hence for all  $i \neq j$ ,  $0 = [H'_i, H'_j] = -a_{ji} \partial'_i + a_{ij} \partial'_j$ , and so  $a_{ij} = 0$ . Therefore,  $H'_i = x'_i \partial'_i$ .

The equalities  $\partial'_i(x'_j) = \delta_{ij}$  imply that the elements  $x'_1, \dots, x'_n \in Q_n$  are algebraically independent over  $K$ : Suppose that  $f(x'_1, \dots, x'_n) = 0$  for some nonzero polynomial  $f(t_1, \dots, t_n) \in K[t_1, \dots, t_n]$ . We can assume that the (total) degree  $\deg(f)$  is the least possible. Clearly,  $f \notin K$ , hence  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} \neq 0$  for some  $i$  and  $\deg(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i}) < \deg(f)$ , but  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i}(x'_1, \dots, x'_n) = \partial_i(f(x'_1, \dots, x'_n)) = \partial_i(0) = 0$ , a contradiction.

4. Let  $\mathcal{D}'_n = \sum_{i=1}^n K \partial'_i$  and  $N = \text{Nil}_{Q_n}(\mathcal{D}'_n)$ . By statement 3 and Lemma 2.11,

$$N = N^{\mathcal{D}'_n}[x'_1, \dots, x'_n] = K[x'_1, \dots, x'_n]$$

since  $K \subseteq N^{\mathcal{D}'_n} \subseteq Q_n^{\mathcal{D}'_n} = K$  (by statement 1).

5. Let  $\partial = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \partial'_i \in N := \text{Nil}_{E_n}(\delta'_1, \dots, \delta'_n)$  where  $a_i \in Q_n$  (statement 2). For all  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^n$ ,

$$\delta'^{\alpha}(\partial) = \sum_{i=1}^n \partial'^{\alpha}(a_i) \partial'_i$$

where  $\delta'^{\alpha} := \prod_{i=1}^n \delta'^{\alpha_i}$ ,  $\delta'_i = \text{ad}(\partial'_i)$  and  $\partial'^{\alpha} := \prod_{i=1}^n \partial'^{\alpha_i}$ . So,  $\delta'^{\alpha}(a_i) = 0$  iff  $\partial'^{\alpha}(a_i) = 0$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$  (statement 2). Now, statement 5 follows from statement 4.

6. First, let us show that, by induction on  $|\alpha|$ , that  $\sigma(x^{\alpha} \partial_i) - x'^{\alpha} \partial'_i \in \text{Cen}_{E_n}(\mathcal{D}'_n) = \mathcal{D}'_n$  (Lemma 2.4.(1)). The initial case when  $|\alpha| = 0$  is obvious. So, let  $|\alpha| > 0$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} [\partial'_j, \sigma(x^{\alpha} \partial_i) - x'^{\alpha} \partial'_i] &= \sigma([\partial_j, x^{\alpha} \partial_i]) - \alpha_j x'^{\alpha-e_j} \partial'_i = \sigma(\alpha_j x^{\alpha-e_j} \partial_i) - \alpha_j x'^{\alpha-e_j} \partial'_i \\ &= \alpha_j x'^{\alpha-e_j} \partial'_i - \alpha_j x'^{\alpha-e_j} \partial'_i = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $\sigma(x^{\alpha} \partial_i) = x'^{\alpha} \partial'_i + \sum \lambda_{ij} \partial'_j$  for some scalars  $\lambda_{ij} = \lambda_{ij}(\alpha) \in K$ . Notice that

$$\sigma(H_i) = \sigma(x_i \partial_i) = x'_i \partial'_i := H'_i,$$

by the definition of the elements  $x'_i$ . Since  $|\alpha| > 0$ ,  $\alpha_j \neq 0$  for some  $j$ . Applying the automorphism  $\sigma$  to the equalities  $(\alpha_j - \delta_{ij}) x^{\alpha} \partial_i = [H_j, x^{\alpha} \partial_i]$  we have (we may assume that  $x^{\alpha} \partial_i \neq H_i$ )

$$\begin{aligned} (\alpha_j - \delta_{ij})(x'^{\alpha} \partial'_i + \sum_{k=1}^n \lambda_{ik} \partial'_k) &= \sigma((\alpha_j - \delta_{ij}) x^{\alpha} \partial_i) = \sigma([H_j, x^{\alpha} \partial_i]) = [H'_j, x'^{\alpha} \partial'_i + \sum_{k=1}^n \lambda_{ik} \partial'_k] \\ &= (\alpha_j - \delta_{ij}) x'^{\alpha} \partial'_i - \lambda_{ij} \partial'_j, \end{aligned}$$

and so  $(\alpha_j - \delta_{ij} + 1) \lambda_{ij} = 0$  and  $(\alpha_j - \delta_{ij}) \lambda_{ik} = 0$  for all  $k \neq j$ . This means that all  $\lambda_{is} = 0$ .

7. By statement 3,  $\sigma'$  is a  $K$ -algebra homomorphism such that  $\text{im}(\sigma') = Q'_n := K(x'_1, \dots, x'_n)$ . By statement 3, for all elements  $a \in Q_n$ ,

$$\partial'_i \sigma'(a) = \sigma' \partial_i(a)$$

since  $\partial'_i$  acts as  $\frac{\partial}{\partial x'_i}$  on  $Q'_n$ .

Let  $a = pq^{-1} \neq 0$  where  $p, q \in P_n$ . Then, for all  $r \in q^2 P_n$ ,  $[a\partial_i, r\partial_i] = (a\partial_i(r) - \partial_i(a)r)\partial_i \in P_n\partial_i$ . By applying  $\sigma$ , we have the equality

$$[\sigma(a\partial_i), \sigma'(r)\partial'_i] = \sigma'(a\partial_i(r) - \partial_i(a)r)\partial'_i.$$

On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned} [\sigma'(a)\partial'_i, \sigma'(r)\partial'_i] &= (\sigma'(a)\partial'_i\sigma'(r) - \partial'_i\sigma'(a)\sigma'(r))\partial'_i = (\sigma'(a)\sigma'\partial_i(r) - \sigma'\partial_i(a)\sigma'(r))\partial'_i \\ &= \sigma'(a\partial_i(r) - \partial_i(a)r)\partial'_i. \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\sigma(a\partial_i) - \sigma'(a)\partial'_i \in C_{E_n}(\sigma'(q^2 P_n)\partial'_i) = C_{E_n}(\sigma(q^2 P_n\partial_i)) = \sigma(C_{E_n}(q^2 P_n\partial_i)) = \sigma(C_{E_n}(q^2 P_n\partial_i)) = 0,$$

by Lemma 2.7. Therefore,  $\sigma(a\partial_i) = \sigma'(a)\sigma(\partial_i)$ .

8. Since  $\sigma(Q_n\partial_i) = \sigma'(Q_n)\partial'_i$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, n$  (statement 7), we must have  $\sigma'(Q_n) = Q_n$ , by statement 2, and so  $\sigma' \in \mathbb{Q}_n$ .  $\square$

**Proof of Theorem 1.2.** Let  $\sigma \in \mathbb{E}_n$ . By Corollary 2.12.(8), we have the automorphism  $\sigma' \in \mathbb{Q}_n$  such that, by Lemma 2.12.(3,6),  $\sigma'^{-1}\sigma \in \text{Fix}_{\mathbb{E}_n}(\partial_1, \dots, \partial_n, H_1, \dots, H_n) = \{e\}$  (Proposition 2.9). Therefore,  $\sigma = \sigma'$  and so  $\mathbb{E}_n = \mathbb{Q}_n$ .  $\square$

### Acknowledgements

The work is partly supported by the Royal Society and EPSRC.

## References

- [1] V. V. Bavula, Every monomorphism of the Lie algebra of triangular polynomial derivations is an automorphism, *C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, Ser. I*, **350** (2012) no. 11-12, 553–556. (Arxiv:math.AG:1205.0797).
- [2] V. V. Bavula, Lie algebras of triangular polynomial derivations and an isomorphism criterion for their Lie factor algebras, *Izvestiya: Mathematics*, (2013), in print. (Arxiv:math.RA:1204.4908).
- [3] V. V. Bavula, The groups of automorphisms of the Lie algebras of triangular polynomial derivations, Arxiv:math.AG/1204.4910.
- [4] V. V. Bavula, The group of automorphisms of the Lie algebra of derivations of a polynomial algebra. Arxiv:math.RA:1304.6524.
- [5] V. V. Bavula, The groups of automorphisms of the Witt  $W_n$  and Virasoro Lie algebras. Arxiv:math.RA:1304.6578.

Department of Pure Mathematics  
University of Sheffield  
Hicks Building  
Sheffield S3 7RH  
UK  
email: v.bavula@sheffield.ac.uk